



Mrs. Josephine Walker from a window of a first floor apartment at 2008 Van Lennen

nen, which was heavily damaged by fire last night. Mrs. Walker, 80, was taken to Memorial Hospital, but was

pronounced dead Arthur Koehler, 79, of the building, overcome by smoke carried out by fire reported in good condition today. At bottom are shown making their entry apartment building. (Photo by

## Apartment House Fire Is Probed

Fire inspectors probed a fire-ravaged apartment house at 2008 Van Lennen today in an effort to determine how the structure caught fire last night.

At the same time, Coroner Arling Wiederspahn ordered an autopsy on an 80-year-old woman who was found dead in her apartment on the first floor.

He said Mrs. Josephine Walker apparently died of asphyxiation but that the cause of death was not certain.

Firemen found her lying on the floor of the apartment when they entered it approximately 11 minutes after arrival at the blaze, a department officer said. She was dead on arrival at Memorial Hospital by ambulance.

The blaze, to which firemen were called at 7:40 p.m. Monday, attracted hundreds of spectators, and police placed cars at each corner of the block to protect hoses and to prevent firemen from being hampered.

Arthur Koehler, 79, manager of the apartment, was overcome by smoke, removed by firemen and taken to the VA Hospital. His condition was termed good last night, and no report was available today.

Fire inspectors gave a

"rough estimate" of \$7,500 to \$10,000 damage today following a close look at the structure. They said one apartment was undamaged, but that all the others were damaged by smoke or fire or both.

Carl Cornelius, owner of the building, said today Mrs. Walker had returned here about two months ago after a trip to the southwest. He said she had lived in the apartments for 10 years, prior to the trip.

Born at Las Vegas, N. M., Mrs. Walker had lived in Wyoming for more than 50 years. She was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and is survived by four daughters. The Wiederspahn Chapel of the Chimes has charge of funeral services for her.

Assistant Fire Chief H. L. Miskimins said the fire had a good start by the time firemen arrived. He said false ceilings and lack of fire stops in walls made the problem tough to combat.

Miskimins said the fire started in the basement of the two-story frame structure and then spread to the ground floor and the second floor.

Only one of the 10 apartments in the building was unoccupied last night, Cornelius said.

An insurance adjustor said the structure was insured for \$18,000.